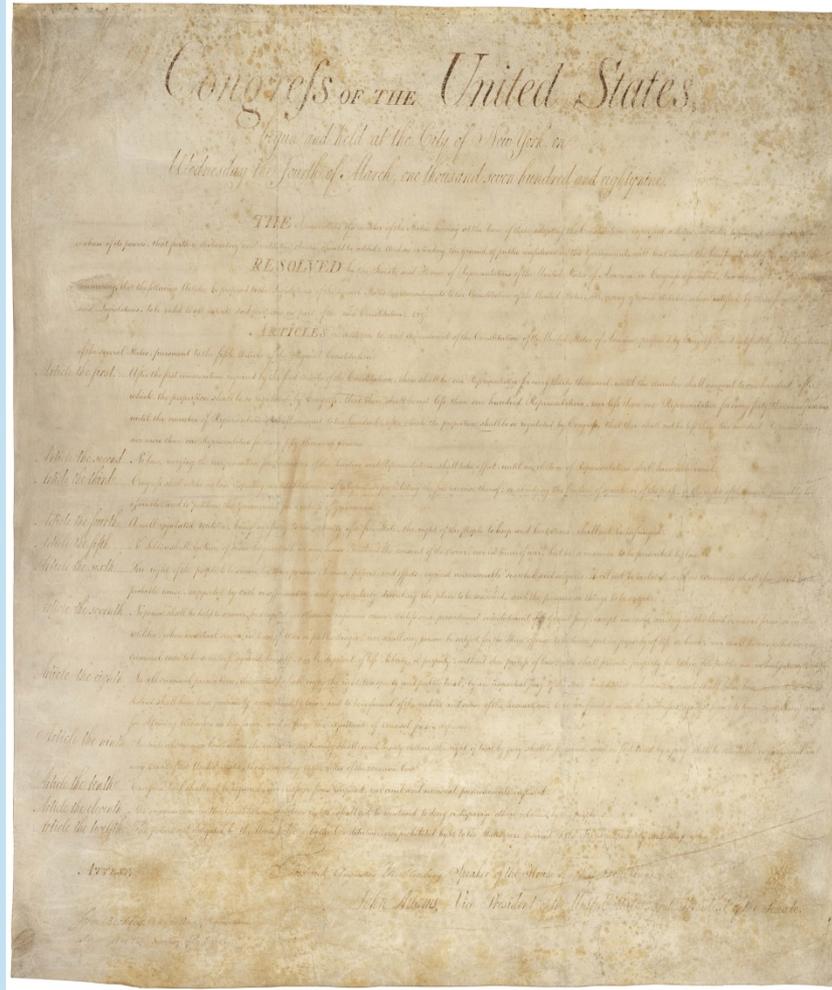
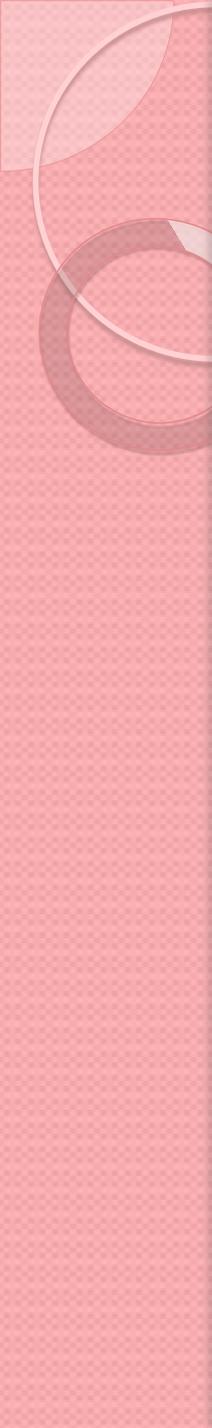


Patriotism: Respecting the United States Flag





Patriotism in the United States has a wide variety of meanings. The definition of patriotism is the love for or devotion to one's country. Why do Americans love their country and show this love through patriotism? The idea of the United States was such a unique exercise in society beginning with the landing of the Puritans. John Winthrop, a puritan, in 1630 described this journey to a new world, "For we must consider that we shall be as a City on the Hill, the eyes of all people are on us."



During the Revolutionary War the patriots fought and won against one of the largest empires of the world at the time – Great Britain. The Revolutionary War brought forth a new nation. This created a nation that would write a unique Constitution with a Bill of Rights which would protect the people from the government.



The Constitution was originally passed in September 1787. However, it did not include a Bill of Rights. Many of the statesman at the time thought this was necessary and fought to have it added. Thomas Jefferson states, “A Bill of Rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth.” Their efforts paid off because the Bill of Rights was passed December 1791.



The Bill of Rights is the first ten amendments of the Constitution. These amendments give us certain rights as American citizens; such as "freedom of religion, speech and safety". It also is a guideline for the government on what it cannot do to the people. Along with the Bill of Rights, the Constitution promotes Egalitarianism which is the belief that all men and women are equal. There is no aristocracy or kings and queens and no one person is better or more privileged than another. Members of the government are held to the same standards as private citizens. The belief in individualism or that the interest of the individual comes first over the interest of government



We are discussing the first five amendments to the constitutions.

The Story of the Bill of Rights

Annenberg Classroom - stop at 8:23

